Organization/Agency: Beach Flats Community Garden Internship (through the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems)

Supervisor/Sponsor: Michelle Glowa
Supervisor/Sponsor title: Researcher

Faculty Sponsor: Stacy Philpott
Sponsor title: Interim director

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# of interns needed/Hours Needed for quarters: Options (choose one)
worked per intern: x Fall x Winter __Remove your listing by ______________
/ ______________ x Spring __Summer x __Or keep on file for one year

Describe the internship assignment:

In this internship students will work with the Beach Flats Community Garden in several capacities. The garden, which has flourished for over 21 years, is located in Santa Cruz in the historically Latino community of Beach Flats lying at the base of the Santa Cruz Boardwalk. It is a space of food production for local consumption contributing to food security and continuation of agroecological traditions and passing along of knowledges from gardeners who have immigrated from Mexico and El Salvador. In addition the garden provides .44 acres of green space in the most densely populated neighborhood of Santa Cruz. Currently the garden is under threat of having to move or complete eviction. Through interviews and participant observation, students will work with researchers to understand how the garden is perceived by the community, what gardeners and allies are doing to advocate for the garden, and how the city of Santa Cruz is trying to resolve this issue. In addition students will have the opportunity to grow food with the gardeners and learn from their traditions, work with the Save the Beach Flats Community Garden Coalition to gain first hand experience in community advocacy, and/or investigate the history of the garden and community to give background to how we have arrived at this problem today. The objectives of working with UCSC interns are to include the eyes and voices of students in the work of the garden, which has in years past been an essential element to garden wellbeing.

Prerequisites:

No particular coursework or background knowledge is necessary. A willingness to respect and learn from community gardeners and local
leaders is required. In addition Spanish skills will be very useful although not mandatory.